



**Office of U.S. Rep. George Nethercutt**  
**Washington's 5th District**  
223 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 25, 2002

Contact: April Gentry  
(202) 225-2006

### **Nethercutt 'optimistic' about future of West Plains plant**

SPOKANE -- Congressman George R. Nethercutt, Jr. (R-Wash.) released the following statement today after Boeing announced Triumph Group Inc. will buy its West Plains facility.

"I am optimistic about today's announcement. Economic development is not just about creating new jobs; we have to retain existing jobs. That's why I see today's news as a shot in the arm for economic development in eastern Washington.

"I appreciate the efforts of Boeing to keep my office informed throughout this process, and the company's commitment to finding a buyer that would be a solid partner for our region.

"The cloud of uncertainty that has been hanging over Boeing workers and their families for a year has now lifted, providing new opportunities. In the week of Thanksgiving, this news is a welcome relief to the 400 families who have been concerned about their future."

In February 2002, Nethercutt said he would have no reason to support Boeing's numerous dealings with the federal government if the company abandoned its West Plains employees. Since then, the Spokane congressman and vice chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee has continually urged Boeing officials to find a buyer that would keep jobs in Spokane for the long term.

"Throughout this effort, I have consistently made the case that the employees at the West Plains facility are the hardest-working, most talented individuals that any company could hope to find. Given a chance, I argued, these employees would continue to prove themselves and would surpass their existing record of innovation and high-caliber production," Nethercutt said.

"I see today's decision as a vote of support by the Boeing Company for the capabilities and performance of these employees, this facility and this region. This is a time of transition, but also of opportunity.

"This long-term agreement provides the stability our workers need in an economy that has been buffeted by uncertainty. Moreover, this new relationship gives Spokane an opportunity to win new converts to doing business in the region. I will work to capitalize on this decision and work for new jobs not only at this facility, but throughout the region."

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